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10 Claim 1-32 (Canceled)

Claim 33. (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, [and] opening or closing an in ground utility valve, comprising [the steps of]: [having] a mobile platform [means] wherein said mobile platform is chosen from one or more of a group consisting of a trailer, a skid, and a
15 motorized vehicle, [a truck, a zero turn radius vehicle, a fork lift, and a skid steer,] and further comprising [the steps of having] a vacuum container adjacently mounted on said mobile platform, and said vacuum container having a vacuum producing means to create a vacuum within said vacuum container, and further comprising [the step of having] a vacuum hose to vacuum a liquid or solids into
20 said vacuum container[[,]] ; and further comprising [the step of having] a boom [means], and said boom [means] having two or more arms, and said boom [means] having a first end pivot ably mounted on said mobile platform, and said pivot ably mounted boom [means] having a second end connected to said valve actuator and further comprising [the step of] said valve actuator having a rotate able shaft, and
25 said rotate able shaft further comprising [the step of having] an attachment means [of] for adjacently mounting said rotate able shaft to a valve stem of said in ground utility valve.

Claim 34 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
30 for accessing, [and] opening or closing an in ground utility valve, comprising the steps of: having a mobile platform [means], and said mobile platform having a vacuum container adjacently mounted to said mobile platform, and said vacuum container having a vacuum producing means to create a vacuum within said vacuum container, and said vacuum container having a vacuum conduit means to vacuum a liquid or solids into said vacuum
35 container[[,]] ; and further comprising the step of having a boom [means], and said boom [means] having two or more arms, and said boom [means] having a first end pivot ably mounted adjacent to said mobile platform, and said pivot ably mounted boom [means] having a second end pivot ably connected to said valve actuator [means], and further

5 comprising the step of said valve actuator having a rotate able shaft and further
comprising the step of said rotate able shaft having an adapter means for connecting said
rotate able shaft to the valve stem of said in ground utility valve, and further comprising
the step of having a pressure sensor [measuring means adjacently] mounted in
communication with said valve actuator, [means] whereby said pressure sensor
10 [measuring means] can be used in monitoring the torque required to rotate said rotate able
shaft.

Claim 35 (previously presented) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation
method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to
15 claim 33 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator comprises an additional step of
said rotate able shaft having an extension means for connecting said rotate able
shaft of said valve actuator to the valve stem of said in ground utility valve.

Claim 36 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33
20 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
comprises an additional step of: mounting a measuring devise [means adjacent to]
in communication with said valve actuator whereby said measuring devise [means]
can measure the torque required to rotate said rotate able shaft.

Claim 37 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
25 for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33
or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
comprises an additional step of mounting a rotation counter [means adjacent to] in
communication with said utility valve actuator whereby said rotation counter
[means] can count the revolutions of said rotate able shaft.

30 Claim 38 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33
or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method
comprises an additional step of: mounting a controller [adjacent to] in
communication with said valve actuator and said controller further comprising the
35 step of reversing the direction of rotation of said rotate able shaft.

- 5 Claim 39 (previously presented) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method comprises an additional step of: mounting a Global Positioning System signal receiver adjacent to said valve actuator.
- 10 Claim 40 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method comprises [an additional step of]: mounting one or more measuring means in communication with [adjacent to] said valve actuator for determining at least one
- 15 operational function relative to said in ground utility valve and further comprising, communicating data relative to said operational function to a computer. [and further comprising the step of adjacently mounting a transmitter in communication with said measuring means and further comprising the step of transmitting information, collected by said measuring means, to a computer.]
- 20 Claim 41 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method comprises an additional step of: [said vacuum conduit means] vacuuming [vacuum
- 25 able] liquid or solids from an in ground casing access [means to] of said in ground utility valve.
- 30 Claim 42 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method comprises an additional step of: mounting a water tank, a water pump, and a water hose adjacent to said mobile platform, and further comprising the step of jetting water onto earthen material, whereby said jetted water can make vacuum able said earthen material found adjacent to said valve stem of said in ground utility valve.
- 35 Claim 43 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method comprises an additional step of: mounting an air tank, air compressor

5 [means], air hose and air nozzle adjacent to said mobile platform, and further comprising the step of directing air under pressure onto an earthen material, whereby said pressurized air can make vacuum able, earthen material found adjacent to said valve stem of said in ground utility valve.

10 Claim 44 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, [and] opening or closing an in ground utility valve, comprising the steps of: having a mobile platform means, wherein said mobile platform is chosen from one or more of a group consisting of a trailer, a skid, and a
15 motorized vehicle, [a truck, a zero turn radius vehicle, a fork lift, and a skid steer,] and further comprising the step of mounting a power plant adjacent to said mobile platform and said power plant consisting of one or more components chosen from a group consisting of a gas engine, a diesel engine, a vacuum pump, a water pump, an air compressor, a generator, a battery, a hydraulic pump, a Global Positioning
20 System signal receiver and a hydraulic power circuit to power hydraulically powered tools, and further comprising the step of having a vacuum container adjacently mounted to said mobile platform, and said vacuum container having a vacuum producing means to create a vacuum within said vacuum container, and further comprising the step of said vacuum container having a vacuum hose means to vacuum liquid or solids into said vacuum container; and further comprising the
25 step of said mobile platform having a boom means, and said boom means having one or more arms, and said boom means having a first end pivot ably mounted adjacent to said mobile platform, and said pivot ably mounted boom means having a second end adjacently mounted to said valve actuator, wherein said valve actuator is chosen from one or more of a group consisting of a hydraulic drive motor, an
30 electric drive motor, an air driven motor, and an air cylinder, and further comprising the step of said valve actuator having a rotate able shaft and further comprising the step of said rotate able shaft having an adapter means for adjacently connecting said rotate able shaft to a valve stem of said in ground utility valve, and further comprising the step of rotating said valve stem of said in ground utility valve in
35 order to open or close said in ground utility valve, and further comprising the step of mounting one or more measuring means in communication with said valve

5 actuator for determining at least one operational function relative to said in ground
utility valve and further comprising the step of communicating data relative to said
operational function to a computer. [mounting a pressure measuring means
adjacent to said valve actuator, whereby said pressure measuring means can be used
in monitoring the torque required to rotate said rotate able shaft, and further
10 comprising the step of mounting a rotation counting means adjacent to said valve
actuator whereby said rotation counting means can count the rotations of said rotate
able shaft, and further comprising the step of having a transmitter adjacently
mounted in communication with said pressure measuring means and rotation
counting means and further comprising the step of said transmitter, transmitting
15 data from said pressure measuring device and rotation counting device to a
computer.]

Claim 45 (previously presented) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation
method for accessing opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to
20 claim 33 or 34 wherein said valve actuator is chosen from one or more of a group
consisting of a hydraulic drive motor, an electric drive motor, an air driven motor,
and an air cylinder.

Claim 46 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation
25 method for accessing and opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to
claim 33 wherein said mobile platform comprises an additional step of: mounting a
liquid pressure dissipater[means] adjacent to said mobile platform [and] wherein
said liquid pressure dissipater further comprises the steps of having an inlet to
accept water under pressure from a water fire hydrant, a water flow deflector to
30 absorb energy in the form of pressure, and an outlet to allow water to exit said water
pressure dissipater.

Claim 47 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation
method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to
35 claim 33 wherein said mobile platform comprises an additional step of: mounting a
liquid pressure dissipater [means] adjacent to said vacuum excavation means and

5 wherein said liquid pressure dissipater further comprises the steps of having an inlet to accept water under pressure from a water fire hydrant, a water deflector to absorb energy in the form of pressure, and an outlet to allow water to exit said liquid pressure dissipater, and further comprises the step of, mounting a de-chlorinator [means adjacent to] in communication with said liquid pressure dissipater [means].

10 Claim 48 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 wherein said mobile platform comprises an additional step of: mounting a liquid pressure dissipater [means] adjacent to said mobile platform and wherein said liquid pressure dissipater [means] further comprises the steps of having an inlet to accept

15 water under pressure from a water fire hydrant, whereby a water hose can have a first end attached to said inlet of said liquid pressure dissipater [means] and a second end of said water hose can be attached to a water fire hydrant outlet, and said liquid pressure dissipater [means] further comprises the step[s] of having a water flow deflector to absorb energy in the form of pressure, and said liquid

20 pressure dissipater [means] further comprises the step[s] of having an outlet to allow water to exit said water pressure dissipater [means] and further comprising the step of adjacently mounted to said mobile platform [means], one or more monitoring devises [of a group] chosen from the group consisting of, a water flow measuring means, a temperature measuring means, a pressure measuring means, a

25 rotation counting means, a torque measuring means, a controller means, a monitor, a Global Positioning System signal receiver means, a transmitter, a computer, a mapping program, and a data logging documenting means, [whereby] wherein information associated with the performance or mechanical condition of a utility valve can be collected, and transmitted to a [data documentation means such as a]

30 computer with a utility mapping program.

Claim 49 (previously presented) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33 or 34 wherein said mobile platform comprises an additional step of: mounting a power plant adjacently to said mobile platform and said power plant

35 consisting of one or more components chosen from a group consisting of a gas engine, a diesel engine, a vacuum pump, a water pump, an air compressor, a

5 generator, a battery, a hydraulic pump, a goose neck coupler, and a hydraulic power circuit to power hydraulically powered tools.

Claim 50 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 34 wherein said mobile platform [means] is chosen from one or more of a group
10 consisting of a trailer, a skid, a truck, a zero turn radius vehicle, a fork lift, and a skid steer.

Claim 51 (currently amended) A mobile utility valve actuator and vacuum excavation method for accessing, opening or closing an in ground utility valve, according to claim 33, 34 or 44 wherein said mobile platform [means further comprising the step of]
15 further comprises adjacently mounting to said mobile platform one or more performance documenting means [of a group] chosen from the group consisting of a water flow measuring means, a temperature measuring means, a pressure measuring means, a rotation counting means, a torque measuring means, a controller means, a monitor means, a metering means, a Global Positioning System signal receiver
20 means, a transmitter means, a computer means, a fire hydrant tester means, a utility valve performance documenting means, a utility valve mechanical maintenance documenting means, a utility valve [a] mapping program, and a data logging documenting means, [whereby] wherein information associated with data collection, geographic location, elevation, date, time, [and] performance or
25 mechanical condition of an in ground utility valve can be collected, monitored, [and] or transmitted to [a data documentation means such as] a computer. [with a utility mapping program.]